



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION
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Governor

SUSAN BASS LEVIN
Commissioner

CHRISTIANA FOGGIO
Chair

EILEEN SWAN
Executive Director & Secretary

**New Jersey State Planning Commission
Minutes of the Plan Development Committee
June 28, 2006
101 South Broad Street
Conference Room 129
Trenton, New Jersey**

CALL TO ORDER

John Eskilson called the June 28, 2006 meeting of the Plan Development Committee to order at 1:40 p.m.

Committee Members Present

John Eskilson, Public Member
Liz Semple, Designee for Commissioner Lisa Jackson, Department of Environmental Protection
Marilyn Lennon, Public Member

Committee Members Not Present

Michele Byers, Public Member
Marge Della Vecchia, Designee for Commissioner Susan Bass Levin, Department of Community Affairs
Debbie Mans, Smart Growth Ombudsman
Edward McKenna, Jr., Public Member
Christiana Foglio, Chair and Public Member

Other State Planning Commission Members Present

Tineen Howard, Designee for Commissioner Kris Kolluri, Department of Transportation
Roberta Lang, Designee for Secretary Charles Kuperus, Department of Agriculture

Others Present (See Attachment A)

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

John Eskilson had no comments and asked Eileen Swan for the Executive Director's report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, Eileen Swan, Executive Director

Ms. Swan reported that Ben Spinelli was leading the cross-acceptance process and that he has very rapidly turned around the statewide issues, which were about half way done when he started with the office in February. Ms. Swan introduced Mr. Spinelli to review the statewide issues.



Mr. Spinelli reported that the two processes that had caused cross acceptance to ground to a halt were dealing with the statewide issues and providing the counties with the mapping information that had been provided to OSG by DEP. He explained that the Office has taken both of the issues head-on and are moving them forward. He reported that in dealing with the DEP mapping issues staff has taken the data that was provided and integrated it into the existing mapping, made some adjustments due to the lines being drawn at different scales, adjusted them and made a few changes in planning areas where they didn't meet mapping protocols. He noted that overall, the data meshed pretty well with the planning area maps and that the maps would be ready in a few weeks to go out to the counties.

Next, Mr. Spinelli reported that with regard to statewide issues he didn't go back and start from the beginning but reviewed the answers that were already developed and made some adjustments where there were some glaring problems identified. He noted that the responses were put together into a 97-page document that has been posted on the OSG website as "Draft Responses to the Statewide Issues." He explained that the responses went out to all the state agencies and a series of comments were received from them and those were incorporated into the response document. Additionally, the current draft responses not only include the staff responses, but also the State agencies comments that came up during the cross-acceptance process. He noted that we would be accepting comments on these further until the July SPC meeting. He felt that they will make excellent guidance for the rewrite of the State Plan. The comments received were very constructive and a lot of local issues and parochial issues were raised. The comments received were geared to making the State Plan better and a lot of the items we were already contemplating came out in the answers as well, such as making the State Plan clearer and making it more user friendly.

Ms. Swan noted that the Statewide Issues have been posted on the OSG website for about a week and reviewed the opportunities for public comment. She noted that there would be a public discussion at the July 19 SPC meeting and written comments could be submitted through the web link, as well as offering comments today's meeting.

Ms. Swan asked for comments from the State agencies or members of the PDC on the statewide issues.

Liz Semple noted that she had gone through the revisions which had DEP's comments incorporated; however they do have a few more which will be forwarded to the Office. She brought up an overarching issue which was what the new State Plan will look like, how much data will be included and what data layers can be included, not necessarily on it but as overlays either through an IMap GIS application tool or overlays within the State Plan. She noted that the State Plan now has information that may not be on the map but is in other parts of the State Plan and is very outdated resource information at this point. She explained that DEP had proposed maybe six or eight months ago to give a presentation by DEP's GIS unit to show what capability they have with their GIS tools – IMap tools and how there could be a certain amount of information on the base State Plan Map, but then provide additional information not necessary as part of the State Plan Map as an overlay of the State Plan Map like well head protection areas, aquifer recharge areas, those environmental features that don't necessarily change a planning area but local governments as well as others interested parties should know about them.

Mr. Spinelli responded that it was a very good suggestion and the office is looking for the State Plan rewrite to be a valuable resource book and the staff is trying to contemplate who the end-users are—planners, municipalities, counties, something very simple for them to open up and use for a reference. He explained that one of the things that have been discussed is making the State Plan look a lot more like a municipal master plan. So that if a municipality opens up the State Plan they can match it up to their own municipal plan and see how they mesh.

Ms. Swan noted that the issue of IMap can be addressed later, because there are more pressing issues. At this point Ms. Swan announced that due to the flooding conditions in Trenton the Department was shutting down at 2:00 p.m. and that the meeting would need to adjourn early.

Marilyn Lennon noted that that it has been five years since the last State Plan and that a lot has happened in five years so the Commission needs to set a goal and target that it will have an updated plan adopted every five years. She explained that it is a tremendous cost and to that end the Commission might only think of publishing the Plan and having it available to public libraries and municipalities or just to produce discs and not go through the expense of hardcopy publication. There needs to be a goal set and end date so that people can deal with certainty and say that this is good for “x” number of years.

At this time, Mr. Eskilson opened the floor up for public comments and apologized for the time constraints.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Palmer, ANJEC commented that they had submitted a proposal to have a statewide hearing in Trenton to perhaps provide an opportunity for interested citizens and non-governmental groups to add to the issues of statewide concern. She questioned whether today’s meeting was the public hearing for that matter.

Ms. Swan responded that the issue will be brought to the full Commission in July and that would be time to conduct the hearing. Candy Ashmun questioned if the full Commission was aware that this issue was going to be on the agenda and the amount of time that may be needed for the meeting.

Bob Kull, Regional Planning Coordinator for Burlington County commented that in the past these kinds of issues have generated a bit of discussion which may be beyond what the full Commission may be able to entertain. He suggested that the PDC reconvene at some date prior the July SPC meeting.

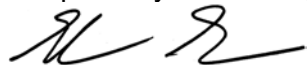
Ms. Swan responded that there would be opportunity to discuss the issues more on a county basis and would have to get back to Mr. Kull about scheduling another meeting PDC meeting prior to the July SPC meeting.

Kamal Saleh, Union County asked if there was a schedule for cross-acceptance established.

Ms. Swan noted that the statewide issues were scheduled to be taken to the SPC at its July meeting and staff was hoping to start the county staff to staff meetings starting in September or earlier if there was a county ready in August. Ms. Swan noted that the Office would try to have a schedule prepared for the July 19 SPC meeting.

Mr. Eskilson noted that due the weather conditions and the closing of the building the meeting was adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eileen Swan
Secretary and Executive Director

Dated: July 11, 2006